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Dear Sir,

Thank you for your recent letter. Swiss Radio International (SRI) discontinued its shortwave Esperanto programme at the end of March this year. The reasons for this decision are as follows:

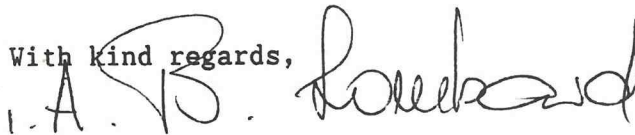
SRI has reorganised its shortwave programme and defined new priorities which put the emphasis on English and French and on information for Swiss citizens living abroad, who have recently been given the right to vote and therefore depend on up to date news from Switzerland. Finally, SRI wants to offer its listeners a simpler programme schedule and because of these changes certain programmes have been discontinued. Not only the Esperanto programme but also Romansh (Switzerland's fourth national language) and the programme in Portuguese have been discontinued.

Up until recently, SRI recognised Esperanto as an important means of dialogue between the East and West but since the opening-up of Eastern Europe, the English, German and French languages have taken over this function.

Nevertheless, SRI still acknowledges the importance of Esperanto as an international language. Together with Swiss representatives of the Esperanto movement it will be possible, if an international audience is interested, to produce and supply radio stations with information and documentary programmes. For a small fee, individual listeners may also obtain these programmes on cassettes.

Please let us know whether you are interested in this cassette service.

With kind regards,


W. Fankhauser
Head of PR & Marketing

Encl.: 1 book "La fenomeno Svislando" by Arthur Baur (limited edition)